

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original)

A disposable filtration bag for a floor care appliance, comprising a closed receptacle for collecting dirt particles and having an inlet opening for allowing a dirt laden airstream to enter, said receptacle being formed from a composite sheet comprised of at least one layer of expanded polytetrafluoroethylene and at least one substrate layer.

Claim 2 (original):

The filtration bag of claim 1 wherein said at least one substrate layer is comprised of a material from the group consisting of synthetic fibers and natural fibers.

Claim 3 (original):

The filtration bag of claim 2 wherein said synthetic fibers is selected from the group consisting of polyester, polyolefin, and nylon.

Claim 4 (original):

The filtration bag of claim 2 wherein said natural fibers is selected from the group consisting of cellulose and cotton.

Claim 5 (original):

The filtration bag of claim 1, wherein said closed receptacle further includes:

a front panel portion;

a rear panel portion comprised of a first rear panel portion and a second rear panel portion joined together with a seam;

wherein said front panel portion and said rear panel portion each respectively have a top end and a bottom end and said respective top ends and said bottom ends are sealed together by folding and an adhesive.

Claim 6 (original):

The filtration bag of claim 5, wherein said closed receptacle further includes a pair of opposing pleated sidewalls joining said front sidewall and said rear sidewall together along the opposing lateral sides.

Claim 7 (original):

The filtration bag of claim 6, wherein said pair of pleated sidewalls each are comprised of at least one pleat.

Claim 8 (original):

The filtration bag of claim 1, wherein said closed receptacle further includes:

a front panel portion;

a rear panel portion comprised of a first rear panel portion and a second rear panel portion joined together with a seam;

wherein said front panel portion and said rear panel portion each respectively have a top end and a bottom end and said respective top ends and said bottom ends are sealed together by a seam.

Claim 9 (original):

The filtration bag of claim 8, wherein the seam sealing said first and second rear panel portions and said seams sealing the respective top ends and said bottom ends of said front and rear panels portions is formed by an adhesive.

Claim 10 (original):

The filtration bag of claim 8, wherein the seam sealing said first and second rear panel portions and said seams sealing the respective top ends and said bottom ends of said front and rear panels portions is formed by sewing.

Claim 11 (original):

The filtration bag of claim 8, wherein the seam sealing said first and second rear panel portions and said seams sealing the respective top ends and said bottom ends of said front and rear panels portions is formed by thermal bonding.

Claim 12 (original):

The filtration bag of claim 8, wherein said closed receptacle is square in shape.

Claim 13 (original):

The filtration bag of claim 8, wherein said closed receptacle is rectangular in shape.

Claim 14 (original):

The filtration bag of claim 11 wherein said closed receptacle further includes:

- a front panel portion;

- a rear panel portion;

wherein said front panel portion and said rear panel portion each have a top and opposing longitudinal edges and said respective top and opposing longitudinal edges are sealed together with a seam.

Claim 15 (original):

The filtration bag of claim 14, wherein said closed receptacle is square in shape.

Claim 16 (original):

The filtration bag of claim 14, wherein said closed receptacle is rectangular in shape.

Claim 17 (original):

The filtration bag of claim 16, wherein the seams sealing said top and opposing longitudinal edges of said front and rear panels are formed by an adhesive.

Claim 18 (original):

The filtration bag of claim 14, wherein the seams sealing said top and opposing longitudinal edges of said front and rear panels are formed by sewing.

Claim 19 (original):

The filtration bag of claim 14, wherein the seams sealing said top and opposing longitudinal edges of said front and rear panels are formed by thermal bonding.

Claim 20 (original):

A method of making a disposable filtration bag for a floor care appliance, comprised of the

steps of:

providing a sheet of composite material comprised of at least one layer of expanded polytetrafluoroethylene and at least one substrate layer;

folding said sheet of composite material;

sealing together respective edges of a first and second rear panel portion of said receptacle by a seam;

sealing together respective top edges and bottom edges of said receptacle by a seam; and

providing an aperture in a front sidewall of said receptacle wherein a dirt laden airstream may enter.

Claim 21 (original):

The method of making a disposable filtration bag for a floor care appliance of claim 20, further including one pleated sidewall separating each of said front and rear panel portions along opposing longitudinal edges of said front and rear panel portions.

Claim 22 (original):

The method of making a disposable filtration bag for a floor care appliance of claim 21 wherein said pleated sidewalls include at least one pleat.

Claim 23 (original):

A method of making a disposable filtration bag for a floor care appliance, comprised of the steps of:

providing a sheet of composite material comprised of at least one layer of expanded polytetrafluoroethylene and at least one substrate layer;

folding said sheet of composite material;

sealing together respective edges of a first and second rear panel portion of said receptacle by a seam;

sealing together respective top edges of a front and rear panel portion of said receptacle by a seam; and

providing an aperture in a front sidewall of said receptacle wherein a dirt laden airstream may enter.

Claim 24 (original):

A method of making a disposable filtration bag for a floor care appliance, comprised of the steps of:

providing a sheet of composite material comprised of at least one layer of expanded polytetrafluoroethylene and at least one substrate layer;

folding said sheet of composite material;

sealing together respective top edges of a front and rear panel portion of said

receptacle by a seam;

sealing together respective opposing longitudinal edges of a said front and rear panel portions of said receptacle by a seam; and

providing an aperture in a front sidewall of said receptacle wherein a dirt laden airstream may enter.

Claim 25 (original):

A vacuum cleaner, comprised of:

a suction nozzle;

a motor-fan assembly; and

a disposable filtration bag formed from a composite sheet comprised of at least one layer of expanded polytetraflouroethylene and at least one substrate layer.

Claim 26 (original):

A floor care appliance, comprised of:

a suction nozzle;

a motor-fan assembly; and

a disposable filtration bag formed from a composite sheet comprised of at least one layer of expanded polytetraflouroethylene and at least one substrate layer.

Claim 27 (original):

A disposable vacuum cleaner filtration bag, comprising: at least one layer of a filtration media for filtering 99.97% of particles 0.3 microns or larger.

Claim 28 (original):

The disposable vacuum cleaner filtration bag of claim 26, wherein said at least one layer of a filtration media filters 99.97% of particles 0.3 microns or larger at a flow speed of 60 cubic feet per minute.

Claim 29: (original):

The disposable vacuum cleaner filtration bag of claim 26, wherein said at least one layer of a filtration media is a layer of expanded polytetrafluoroethylene.

Claim 30 (original):

A disposable filtration bag for a floor care appliance, comprising: at least one layer of a filtration media for filtering 99.97% of particles 0.3 microns or larger.

Claim 31 (original):

The disposable filtration bag for a floor care appliance of 29, wherein said at least one layer of a filtration media is a layer of expanded polytetrafluoroethylene.

Claim 32 (original):

The disposable filtration bag for a floor care appliance of claim 29, wherein said at least one layer of a filtration media filters 99.97% of particles 0.3 microns or larger at a flow speed of 60 cubic feet per minute.

Claim 33 (original):

A dirt collecting system for a floor care appliance, comprising:

a suction nozzle;

a motor-fan assembly for creating a dirt laden airstream originating at the suction nozzle; and

a disposable filtration bag for a floor care appliance comprised of at least one layer of a filtration media for filtering 99.97% of particles 0.3 microns or larger at a flow speed of 60 cubic feet per minute.

Claim 34 (original):

The dirt collecting system for a floor care appliance of claim 32, wherein said at least one layer of a filtration media is expanded polytetrafluoroethylene.